

long-lasting impact. It is because of lowans like her that I'm proud to represent our great state in Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Alisa on receiving this esteemed award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2017, I missed roll-call votes Nos. 153 through 158 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea, yea, yea, yea, yea and nay, respectively.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERCED COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Merced County Farm Bureau, an organization that is dedicated to supporting and advocating for Merced County's agriculture industry.

The organization first began as the Merced County Farmers and later became known as the Merced County Farm Bureau in 1917. The high demand for food production during World War I urged the University of California to help in funding farmers around the Central Valley in their efforts to produce agricultural products faster, sending their advisers to local farms in Merced County. On March 7, 1917, the Merced County Farmers, signed a petition requesting a farm advisor from the University of California for Merced County, through the University of California Cooperative Extension program. However, in order to obtain an advisor, the organization needed to become a Farm Bureau first. And so, after changing the name of the organization and complying with necessary requirements to become a farm bureau, the Merced County Farm Bureau had its first meeting on May 17, 1917.

As a result of having an advisor, scientific innovations began to take form in the production of food, dairy, research support and Labor management, and the positive impacts were experienced throughout the county. It began by supporting policies and legislation that protected the natural resources required for the production of agriculture.

As a non-profit organization, the Merced County Farm Bureau contributes to the community by providing scholarship opportunities to the children of farmers who are pursuing higher education. It also provides a program to young adults in Merced County that facilitate professional development and social networking to farmers, ranchers and individuals who work in agriculture between the ages of 18–35. Additionally the Merced County Farm Bureau keeps their farmers and community informed about local agricultural issues as well as state and national legislation through their Merced County Farm Newspaper. Furthermore, the Merced County Farm Bureau hosts local farmers markets to help support farmers around the Central Valley.

Now 100 years after the Merced County Farm Bureau was created, it has become the 6th largest producing agricultural county in California, greatly contributing in the overall economy of our state and making 90% of California's Sweet Potatoes. Thanks to organizations like the Merced County Farm Bureau, the San Joaquin Valley's agriculture industry has become a significant economic contributor to the state.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Merced County Farm Bureau. The last 100 years have been a testament of their strong commitment and continued support of our community and agricultural producers.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY RHODORA J. DONAHUE

### HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my wife Kathleen and I to wish Mrs. Rhodora J. Donahue a very happy 92nd birthday.

We hope Rhodora is celebrating this very special day surrounded by her loved ones. I believe a loving family is the greatest treasure in life and with 13 married children, 82 grandchildren, and 108 great grandchildren, Rhodora has most certainly attained it. I hope you all can join me in wishing her continued health and happiness throughout the year.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 16, 2017, I was ab-

sent from the House due to traffic delays related to motorcade activity. Due to my absence, I did not record any votes for the first vote series of the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 162, and Roll Call 163.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call 164.

#### TRIBUTE TO TYLER COONEY

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 17, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Tyler Cooney and his teammate Adam Koch, both students at Dallas Center Grimes High School in Grimes, Iowa, for winning second prize in C-SPAN's national 2017 StudentCam competition.

Since 2006, C-SPAN has been partnering with local cable affiliates across the country to work with middle school and high school students to create documentaries on issues important to the nation. For this year's competition, students were asked to address the question: "What is the most urgent issue for the new President and Congress to address?"

Tyler and Adam decided to focus on energy issues and made a documentary titled, "Powerhouse of the Prairie." The short film zeroed in on the important role that wind energy and ethanol production plays, not only in Iowa's economy, but the economy throughout the entire country. I was fortunate enough to contribute to their project by discussing the importance of energy independence as it pertains to our country's national security. Their documentary will premiere on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. on April 7 and will play throughout the day.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Tyler and Adam for earning this outstanding award. The experience and knowledge they gained working on this project will be invaluable for years to come as they move forward with their education. It is because of young lowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state in Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Tyler and Adam and in wishing them nothing but continued success.